|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Strands** | Story of the Church; Meditation, Prayer and Worship | | | |
| **Stage of Development** | Early Childhood (K-2) | **Created** May 2021 | | **Review** 2025 |
| **Aim** | Students will experience a number of festivals and seasons associated with the Christian Year during each of their years at school. Some students will worship with families and friends on other occasions beyond the School. This Unit encourages students to observe how different colours represent the different blessings of God. | | | |
| **Content Descriptions** | **Knowledge and Understanding**   * Develop awareness of the colours and seasons of the Church Year * An understanding of the different blessings the different colours of the Church Year represent | | **Religious Studies Skills**   * Prayer and meditation * Concept cracking * Praise and thanksgiving | |
| **Additional Resources** | The Jesus Storybook Bible, Sally Lloyd-Jones | | This Bible has beautiful illustrations and considerable effort has been put into developing each story so Children can understand the meaning. | | |
| The Beginner’s Bible, Candle Books | | This is a very simple Bible great for younger students. | | |
| Bible Gateway  [www.biblegateway.com](http://www.biblegateway.com) | | This website allows you to look up Bible passages. It has different translations. You can change the translation to find translations that are more appropriate for Children and easier to understand e.g. New Living Translation. | | |
| Re: Quest  [www.request.org.uk](http://www.request.org.uk/) | | This website has been developed by an agency of the Anglican Church in the UK and has great videos of key Bible stories. | | |

| **Lesson** | | **Key Questions** | **Lesson Activity Ideas** | | **Resources** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **1** | The colours of the Church Year | Why do Christians have a Church calendar?  Why does the church use different colours? | 15min  10min  15min  5min | Activity: Ask students to create a picture with paint that represents the current season e.g. winter, summer. After students have completed their picture discuss why they used the colours they did. e.g. grey in winter or yellow in summer. Talk about how different colours can symbolize different things e.g. green and red=Christmas, yellow = summer.  Explain: The Church has a year calendar so that each year we can remember important points in the life of Jesus and of the Church through history. The Church uses different colours to remind its members of the different blessings God gives to his people in each season. You may wish to show students a pie graph online of the church year.  Worksheet: Priest’s Outer Vestments. A template for the garments has also been provided to photocopy onto coloured paper (red, violet, white, green). Students may also see their Chaplain wearing other vestments in Chapel, especially for a Eucharist – a chasuble, or a cope. Ask the Chaplain what these are.  Watch: show the ASC video on Christian Festivals (3min) and discuss. | Paint, paper  [Church liturgical year colours](http://ww1.prweb.com/prfiles/2008/03/31/230958/1204160007.jpg) (as a pie chart)  Worksheet: Priest’s Outer Vestments, coloured paper, or pencils  ASC video: Christian Festivals |
| 2 | Violet-Advent and lent | When and why is violet or purple used in the Church calendar? | 20min  10min  15min | Activity: Sit students in a circle. The teacher starts ‘I’m going on a holiday and I am going to take a….’. Go around the circle with each student adding an item. They must repeat all the items from the students before them before adding their own item to the bag. The aim is to make it around the circle with everyone remembering what has been packed.  Explain: to the students that when we go on holidays we prepare, but we also know that the preparation is not the holiday itself. Advent and Lent are both periods of preparation. In the Church Year, violet / purple is used to remind Christians of preparations, repentance and sorrow and also of hope. During Advent we prepare for Christmas - Jesus birth and reflect on Mary and Joseph’s journey to Bethlehem During Lent we prepare for Easter – we reflect on Jesus’ time in the desert and his journey to Jerusalem leading to his death and resurrection. Both periods are a time for renewal; it is especially a time for forgiveness because God brings forgiveness to us through Jesus, God’s Son.  Activity: give the students a piece of purple paper and show them a picture of either the nativity or Jesus on the cross. Alternatively, you could use an image of a famous painting of either of these events. Ask the students to write down or draw how the picture makes them feel. Explain that part of a period of preparation is reflection. For example, in the lead up to Easter Christians often reflect on saying sorry to God and his forgiveness in Jesus. | Violet is used at times of preparation, repentance and sorrow.  Your School Chapel or parish church may use an Advent wreath with violet candles to show the journey towards Christmas.  Your School Chapel or parish church may take away flowers and perhaps cover crosses and statues with violet cloths during Lent.  Purple paper |
| 3 | White-Christmas time and Easter time. | When and why is white or gold used in the Church calendar? | 20min  10min  15min | Activity: Bring in a white sheet and play a parachute game with the sheet. Discuss with the students what the colour white reminds them off. Share that it in church white is used to remind Christians of new life and Christ’s triumph over death.  Read: The resurrection story from a Children’s Bible (Matthew 28, Mark 16, Luke 24, John 20) and ask the students how the story talks about new life and why celebrating the resurrection might bring joy to Christians.  Activity: Provide each student with a black piece of paper and a white crayon. Ask the students to draw what they think the women saw when they came to the tomb. | White bed sheet.  White is used for Feasts of special joy. It symbolises Christ’s coming to us at Christmas; and Christ’s triumph over death through his resurrection at Easter.  Black paper, white crayon |
| **4** | Red-Pentecost | When and why is red used in the Church calendar? | 25min  10min  10min | Activity: Provide the students with a red piece of paper. Ask them to make a paper aeroplane. Take the aeroplanes outside and have a race. Ask the students what makes the paper aeroplanes fly? Can they see the force/wind that is making it fly? Explain that in the church calendar one of the things red represents is Pentecost. Pentecost celebrates the time after Jesus’ resurrection when he sent his Holy Spirit down to earth to live inside believers. Explain that we can’t normally see the Holy Spirit, but we can see the things he does (like the planes and the wind/force).  Read: the story of Pentecost from a Children’s Bible (Acts 2:1-13).  Freeze framing: Allocate groups of pupils a moment from the story. Ask the different groups to develop a tableau to show a still image of the scene using their bodies. Record this with a camera and put thimages together, for a display.  Extension: You could also refer to the Fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23) as part of this lesson or as an additional lesson. | Red paper  Red is used to represent fire and blood. It is used at Pentecost and on Good Friday. It may also be used in your School Chapel for Saint’s Days, especially if your school or Chapel is named after a Saint.  Children’s Bible |
| **5** | Green – ordinary time | When and why is green used in the Church calendar? | 15min  5min  10min  15min | Activity: Ask the students to draw a timeline of their normal day. Get them to share their timeline with the person next to them or the class. Ask the students to reflect on their year. Ask them what they spend the most time doing. Ordinary things or special things? Ask them what happens when they are doing ordinary things? e.g. do they learn new things at school, do they grow taller, do they make new friends? The idea here is to show that ordinary times are often a time of slow and steady growth (creation and hope).  Explain that green in the Church calendar is used to represent ordinary time. Green represents life or growth. It celebrates the grace that each day draws people into relationship with God.  Read: the parable of the Sower from a Children’s Bible (Luke 8:4-15). Get the Children to act out the story. Discuss how Christians believe they can grow in ordinary time. **‘**But the seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop.’ Luke 8:15  Activity: plant some seeds that the class can watch grow.  Extension: (putting on the spectacles) everyone approaches Jesus’ stories from their own perspective and for their own purpose. Set up groups of pupils to read from the different perspectives and see how it effects their readings. For example ask students to put on the spectacles of the following readers: one of Jesus’ close disciples (friends), a wealthy, pleasure seeking celebrity from today, someone who is unsure about God, a student who feels like no-one likes them etc. | Green is used to represent life. It celebrates the graces that draw people into the life of God.  This colour is used for the longest time in the Church’s calendar – from about June to November every year.  Children’s Bible  Seeds, pots, plants, dirt. |
| **6** | Summary | Optional lesson. The purpose is to revise the meanings of the different colours – what Christian festivals or time of year do they represent? |  | Optional summary lesson  Ask the students to design an artwork that displays the different colours and the blessings they represent.  Worksheet: Church Year Number Colour | Paint, paper etc.. |